

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-81 are pending in the application. Claims 1-81 have been rejected.

Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 has been rejected for reciting the phrases “the first router” and “the first switch” without having a sufficient antecedent basis. Independent claim 1 has been amended by deleting “first” from the above phrases. Given that the phrases “a router” and “a switch” of claim 1 provide an antecedent basis for the phrases “the router” and “the switch,” applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Office Action indicates that claim 1 has no functional language that would link the claimed limitations.

Claim 1, as amended, reads as follows.

A system, comprising:
a local area network management system to manage and configure a network of routers;
a wide area network management system to manage and configure a network of switches; and
address registration information to be appended to a message sent between a router of the network of routers and a switch of the network of switches over a connection between the router and the switch, wherein either the local area network management system or the wide area network management system uses the address registration information to map the network of routers and the network of switches.

Amended claim 1 includes the limitation “wherein either the local area network management system or the wide area network management system uses the address registration information to map the network of routers and the network of switches.” This

limitation provides functional relationships between the local area network management system, the wide area network management system, and the address registration information. Applicants have amended claim 1 in accordance with the suggestion of the Examiner in order to expedite prosecution of this application.

Claims 1-81 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by the paper entitled "Cisco Publication: Frame Relay ELMI Address Registration" by Cisco, posted on December 6, 2000 (hereinafter "Cisco Document"). The Cisco Document allegedly qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) because the alleged effective date of December 06, 2000 of the Cisco Document is earlier than the applicant's filing date of August 02, 2001.

The attached Declarations of Madhu Rao and Srikanthkumar Hosakote establish derivation from the inventors of this application (Madhu Rao and Srikanthkumar Hosakote) of anything disclosed in the cited publication, "Cisco Publication: Frame Relay ELMI Address Registration" by Cisco, posted on December 6, 2000 (hereinafter "Cisco Document") that relates to the claims of this application rather than being invented by the author of the Cisco Document which has been attached as Exhibit B. For example, the ELMI address registration feature described on pages 2 and 3 of the Cisco Document relates to the address registration information found in all of the independent claims of this application. The claims have been attached as Exhibit A. The ELMI address registration feature has been derived from the inventors of this application. Exhibits are attached to the Declarations of Madhu Rao and Srikanthkumar Hosakote.

The declarations of the inventors of this application describe the documentation process to generate configuration and product guides (e.g., Cisco Document) at Cisco Technology, Inc. Exhibit C is an ELMI Protocol Document entitled "IP Address/ IfIndex Registration Using ELMI protocol on the UFM Card" (hereinafter "ELMI Protocol Document"). The relevant dates in Exhibit C have been redacted as permitted by MPEP § 715.07.II. The subject matter of the ELMI Protocol Document that relates to the claims of this application was invented by the inventors of this application. For example, Figure 1 on page 7 of the ELMI Protocol Document relates to the claims of this application. Figure 1 illustrates a network of routers and a network of switches exchanging address registration information (e.g., IP addresses, IfIndex). The ELMI Protocol Document was prepared and dated prior to December 6, 2000.

The inventors of this application provided the ELMI Protocol Document to the documentation writers in accordance with the documentation process at Cisco Technology, Inc., which is a subsidiary of Cisco Systems, Inc. Upon information and belief, Max Anderson was the documentation person who authored the Cisco Document per page 7 of the ELMI-Address registration Program Plan (EDCS-49176) which has been attached as Exhibit D. The relevant dates in Exhibit D have been redacted as permitted by MPEP 715.07.II.

The inventors of this application declare that the Cisco Document was derived from the subject matter of the ELMI Protocol Document, Exhibit C, which relates to the claims of this application. For example, the feature overview (page 2) of the Cisco Document was derived from the introduction (page 5) of Exhibit C.

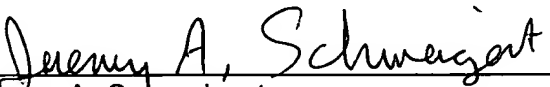
Exhibit E is an Invention Disclosure Document entitled "Neighbor Discovery Using Address Registration protocol running over ELMI" (hereinafter "Invention Disclosure Document") describing embodiments of the above-referenced application. The relevant dates have been redacted from Exhibit E. The Invention Disclosure Document discusses advantages of implementing the ELMI-AR protocol on the UFM frame relay card and neighbor Cisco IOS. The Invention Disclosure Document further discusses how Cisco products that provide network management solutions will use the ELMI-AR feature to provide complete network discovery. As evidenced by the Invention Disclosure Document, the ELMI-AR protocol was conceived prior to December 06, 2000.

The Declarations set forth facts sufficient to show derivation of the Cisco Document from the inventors of this application. The Declarations set forth facts sufficient to show conception and invention of the subject matter of the above-referenced application prior to December 6, 2000. Therefore, the Cisco Document is not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(a). Accordingly, it is requested that the rejection of claims 1-81 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by the Cisco Document be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections and objections have been overcome. If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Jeremy A. Schweigert
Reg. No. 56,244

1279 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale, CA 94085
(408) 720-8300